

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached seven sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1, 2A, 2B, 3, 4, 5B, 6 and 10. These seven sheets, which includes Figures 1, 2A, 2B, 3, 4, 5A, 5B, 6 and 10, replace the drawing sheets as originally filed. In the replacement Figs. 1, 2A and 2B a --- Prior Art--- legend has replaced the "related art" legend, and in replacement Figs 3, 4, 5B, 6 and 10 cross hatching of the spring has been added. Replacement Figs. 3, 4, 5B, 6 and 10 replace those figures submitted in the Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed on November 23, 2005, and show the "non-solid" cross section of element 160. No new matter has been added.

Attachment: Seven Replacement Sheets

IN THE CLAIMS

The following claim listing replaces all prior versions and listings thereof:

1. (Currently Amended) A securing device, comprising:

a spring configured to support a rod such that the rod elastically moves back and forth;

a generally annular spring support comprising a spring mount that projects on an inner side of the spring support and is configured to support the spring; and

a generally annular coupling ring configured to connect to the spring support, to secure the spring between the spring support and the coupling ring.

2. (Previously Presented) The securing device according to claim 1, wherein:

said spring support has a first inner diameter and a second inner diameter; and

said spring mount formed a region between said first inner diameter and said second inner diameter.

3. (Previously Presented) The securing device according to claim 1, wherein a first thread is formed on an inner periphery of the spring mount of the spring support, and a second thread is formed on an outer periphery of the coupling ring, the first and second threads configured to threadedly engage each other.

4. (Withdrawn) The securing device according to claim 1, wherein the coupling ring comprises synthetic resin and is configured to at least one of press and fix a periphery of the spring via a generally ring-shaped nut.

5. (Currently Amended) A securing device, comprising:

a spring configured to support a rod such that the rod elastically moves back and forth;

a generally annular spring support comprising a spring mount that projects on an inner side of the spring support and is configured to support the spring;

a generally annular coupling ring configured to connect to the spring support, to secure the spring between the spring support and the coupling ring; and

a plurality of fixation holes penetratingly formed through the coupling ring, the plurality of fixation holes configured to accept a respective plurality of fixation tools, and further configured to facilitate the connection of said spring support to said coupling ring.

6. (Previously Presented) The securing device according to claim 5, wherein:
said spring support has a first inner diameter and a second inner diameter; and
said spring mount is formed at a region between said first inner diameter and said second inner diameter.

7. (Previously Presented) The securing device according to claim 5, wherein a first thread is formed on an inner periphery of the spring mount of the spring support, and a second thread is formed on an outer periphery of the coupling ring, the first and second threads configured to threadedly engage each other.

8. (Withdrawn) The securing device according to claim 5, wherein the coupling ring comprises synthetic resin and is configured to at least one of press and fix a periphery of the spring via a generally ring-shaped nut.

9. (Original) The securing device according to claim 5, wherein the plurality of fixation holes are at an interval of one of approximately 90° and 180° on the coupling ring.

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10. (Currently Amended) A securing device, comprising:

a spring configured to support a rod such that the rod elastically moves back and forth;

a generally annular spring support comprising a spring mount that projects on an inner side of the spring support and is configured to support the spring, said spring support having only two inner diameters, the two inner diameters consisting of a first inner diameter and a second inner diameter that is smaller than the first inner diameter, wherein said spring mount is positioned at a region of said spring support located between the first inner diameter and the second inner diameter;

a generally annular coupling ring configured to connect to the spring support, to secure the spring between the spring support and the coupling ring; and

a plurality of threaded holes in the coupling ring.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The securing device according to claim 10, wherein a first thread is formed on an inner periphery of the spring mount of the spring support, and a second thread is formed on an outer periphery of the coupling ring, the first and second threads configured to threadedly engage each other.

13. (Withdrawn) The securing device according to claim 10, wherein the coupling ring comprises synthetic resin and is configured to at least one of press and fix a periphery of the spring with a generally ring-shaped nut.

14. (Original) The securing device according to claim 10, wherein the plurality of threaded holes are at an interval of one of approximately 90° and 180° on the coupling ring.

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15-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method of securing a spring to a reciprocating device, the method comprising:

inserting a spring into a generally annular spring support such that a spring mount of the spring support supports the spring; and

connecting a generally annular coupling ring to the spring support such that the spring is secured and sandwiched between the coupling ring and the ~~projection~~ spring support; and

supporting, via the spring, a rod such that the rod elastically moves back and forth.